



# MONTEREY NEWS

June 2001  
VOLUME XXXI Number 6



## The Town

### Maynard Forbes Named Highway Superintendent

Donald Amstead, Jr., longtime Monterey Highway Superintendent, will be retiring in June. Over the last few months the Highway Superintendent Search Committee, comprised of Stanley Ross, Dean Amidon, Mickey Jervas, Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, and Fire Chief Raymond Tryon, has been defining the responsibilities of the position and reviewing applications. At the end of the review process they recommended to the Select Board that Maynard A. Forbes, former co-manager of the Monterey General Store, be appointed to the newly created position of Direct of Operations for Highways, Buildings and Town Properties. The Board met with Forbes on April 30 and unanimously approved his appointment, which will take effect on June 18, 2001.

### Special Town Meeting

Prior to the Annual Town Meeting on May 5, a Special Town Meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. to consider three articles.

Article 1 dealt with the transfer of \$50,000 from Free Cash account to the Sand and Snow Account to replenish that account for the bills incurred for snow removal during the past winter. Discussion focused on the amount of salt used



*Steve Snyder addresses the Annual Town Meeting.*

on the roads this past winter. Muriel Lazzarini spoke about the concern for safety on the roads and said that salt use is a work in progress and might be cut down by computerization rather than anecdotal advice. Several citizens expressed concern that too much salt had been used, and asked if the \$50,000 overrun was for the purchase of salt and what the dollar figure would have been if a mixture of sand and salt had been used as in the past, but George Emmons noted that the Finance Committee did not have those figures. Peter Brown of the Select Board said that educators in seminars they attended indicated that salt, not sand, will work on all roads except dirt roads and that the goal is to use as little salt as

possible. After the Finance Committee noted that the bills had already been paid under emergency regulations and that the operating account needed to be replenished, the article was approved by a voice vote.

Article 2 was approved by a voice vote to transfer \$50,000 from free cash account for the barrier removal phase of the Town Hall renovation project. The funds were needed to pay for items not covered by the state handicap access grant.

Article 3, which generated the most discussion of the day, dealt with the relocation of the playground at Greene Park. The amount requested for transfer from Free Cash was amend from \$9,000, the amount shown on the warrant, to \$22,483.



Peter Brown explained that the move was necessary because the old playground was located over the Town Hall septic field, and a water pipe leak in the vicinity had caused the septic to overflow the playground. By this time it was 9:27 a.m., and Moderator Mark Makuc had to adjourn the Special Meeting so that the Annual Town Meeting could be convened and the polls opened for the town election. Once this was done, the Annual Town Meeting was adjourned so that discussion on this article before the Special Town Meeting could continue. After a motion to close discussion on the article was defeated, Steve Enoch asked why, if the first location was a mistake, was there a move to place it again in a wet spot (beside left field of the ball field). Michele Miller noted that there had been too little community involvement in the process given the many issues involved. Jon Sylbert said that there is no cheap playground when the care of children is involved, and that \$20,000 seemed reasonable for a playground. Steve Snyder asked that the relocation be postponed, and Robert Lazzarini noted that perhaps the new Board of Health could arrange regular testing of the existing playground after replacing the subsoil and woodchips. The amended article was passed by a counted vote of 48 yes to 34 no. (But see related playground story below.)

The Special Town Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m., and the Annual Town Meeting proceeded.

### Annual Town Meeting

In the May 5 Annual Town Meeting voters approved a budget of \$2,001,281 for the 2002 fiscal year. Most of the expenditures passed with little discussion or opposition, but there were a few exceptions.

In the discussion of the Tree Warden's budget, originally set at \$4,500, Roger Tryon, the Tree Warden, pointed

out that the actual cost of the work has been \$7,000, and asked that \$2,500 in a special article for tree work be added as an amendment to the Tree Warden's budget. The special article was set up to provide for a committee to survey the town trees and work with and advise the Tree Warden on how to use the \$2,500; Mr. Tryon pointed out that the Tree Warden is an elected official, unlike the committee, and should be given the budget to do his job. The amended budget item was approved by a vote of 47 yes to 20 no. As a result of this the special article was passed over when it came up later.

Discussion of the snow and sand expenditure item, which had a proposed increase of \$50,000 over last year's budget to reflect the amount actually spent in the last winter, once again brought out citizens' concerns about increased salt use on the roads for snow removal. The arguments were familiar by this point. Richard Tryon said the frost heaves and cracks in the roads last winter were the worst he has seen in his fifty years in Monterey and suggested that this was because excessive brine penetrated cracks and percolated under the roads; he also said that his calculations (checked by his wife, Barbara, a former school teacher) indicate that the actual salt usage was on the order of seven times higher than reported at the April 27th informational

meeting. Dean Amidon suggested that calibrated equipment be used on town trucks this coming winter and that the costs of removing sand, which must be disposed of as toxic waste, be calculated if sand is used. An amendment was offered to set this item at \$99,640.00, the same as last year's budget. Town Counsel Hugh Cowhig pointed out that this could cause problems because if this budget is used up during next winter, no emergency money could be drawn for snow removal until a Special Town Meeting were held. The citizens agreed that a Special Town Meeting could be held in timely fashion, if needed, if a close track is kept on this account. The amended item was approved by voice vote. In a related item, Article 12, voters approved an increase in the appropriation to the Stabilization Fund from the proposed \$50,000 to \$100,000, from which money can be drawn next winter for snow removal with the authority of a Special Town Meeting.

The largest single line item on the budget was the town's assessment to the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Voters approved paying Monterey's share of \$828,425 an increase of \$27,981. The voters also approved a new assessment formula based on an average of total pupil enrollment for prior years for member towns in the school district.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.



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*The Monterey Kindergarten marching proudly in Memorial Day parade*

Another approved article on the war-rant appropriated \$15,000 for the revaluation of town properties.

### **Town Election Results**

Only 107 voters, or 17 percent, of the 604 registered voters in Monterey voted in the annual Town Election on May 5, 2001. The polls were open from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Fifteen incumbents ran unopposed for reelection, and three non-incumbents also faced no opposition. The

incumbents' vote totals include (all terms are three years unless noted): Gerry Shapiro, Board of Assessors, 77 votes; Rudolph Gero, Cemetery Committee, with 94 votes, ; George B. Emmons, Finance Committee, 93 votes; Anne Marie Makuc, 90 votes, and Will Marsh, 94 votes, Library Trustees; and Carol Edelman, 88 votes for a two-year term as a Library Trustee.

Incumbents Raymond Tryon was reelected as Constable with 77 votes and Peter Brown was reelected to the Select Board with 72 votes. Other incumbents winning reelection: Henry Makuc, 96 votes for Tax Collector; Patricia Mielke, 88 votes for Treasurer; Robert Gauthier, 96 votes for a five-year term on the Board of Appeals; Denise Andrus 97 votes for the Parks Commission; Jonathan Sylbert, 80 votes for five-year term on the Planning Board; Mark Makuc, 102 votes for a one-year term as Town Moderator and Roger Tryon, 92 votes for a one-year term as Tree Warden.

Robert Lazzarini, Stephen Enoch and Kathie Tryon won election to the newly established Board of Health for three-, two-, and one-year terms, respectively.

The vote totals: 95 votes for Lazzarini; 97 votes for Enoch, and 98 votes for Tryon.

### **New Health Board Organizes**

Robert Lazzarini was elected chair of the newly elected Monterey Board of Health at the board's organizational meeting held May 10 at the Monterey Offices. The board will hold regular meetings on Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Town Offices. Peter Kolodziej of Tri-Town Health will continue to serve as the town's health agent. For further information contact Bonnie Jurgenson, Administrative Assistant, at the Town Offices, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (413 528-1443).

### **Greene Park Playground Reopens in Same Location**

After further review and consultation with Tri-Town Health and with the Select Board on May 7, the Park Commission decided to keep the Greene Park playground where it is. The old woodchips and liner have been removed and replaced with new ones, and the playground equipment has been cleaned, and the playground has been resurfaced with new

### **Peter S. Vallianos Attorney at Law 528-0055**

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

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I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.



woodchips. The Select Board also recommended that a new waterline be installed for a drinking fountain.

### Meeting Schedule

Beginning in June the **Select Board** will meet every Monday at 10 a.m. and the first Monday evening at 7 p.m.

A **second homeowners meeting** has been scheduled for Saturday, July 21, at 10 a.m. at the Monterey Firehouse.

A quarterly **All Board Meeting** for all Monterey Town Board members is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. The topics for discussion:

- the Scenic Mountain Act;
- how can we encourage greater attendance at the annual town meeting;
- what can be done to increase communication links among the town boards and officials.

### New Police Officer

The Select Board has approved the appointment of Randall French of Stockbridge for summer patrol duty.

— Suzanne Hoppenstedt,  
with help from Barbara Swann

## Farewell to Walter Parks, Best Postmaster

Many people in town are in some state of denial about the retirement of Walter Parks, our beloved postmaster. As of June 1, Walter will have stepped down after forty-two years in the Monterey Post Office.

Looking at Walter it is hard to believe he is old enough to have done anything for forty-two years, but in a recent visit with him "behind the counter" I learned that he started work in our P.O. in 1959 when he was still a senior at Mt. Everett High School. If you do the math, you will realize that Walter is, as he puts it, past due to retire. The Post Office allows you to retire with dignity and benefits after thirty years of full-time work, and Walter says, "I am five years beyond that."

Walter, known to some as "Walt" or "Wally," moved to Monterey in 1954 with his parents and sister. His father, Ray Parks, was a farmer and got a job managing the chicken farm across from Lake Garfield on Tyringham Rd., the place known as Lake Farm. The family moved from there to the place on Route 23 across from the Enoe farm and the LePrevost llamas, where they rented for some time.

It was during these years that Walter was in high school and went to work for the Monterey Post Office when it was

still in the Monterey Store. Walter says that he was a temporary clerk and that Peter Phillips was the postmaster back then.

In 1960 the current Post Office was built, and when Peter Phillips left Jack McIver became postmaster in the new building. By this time Walter had taken the Civil Service exam and been appointed as clerk. He married Judy Smith, and they lived a couple of years at what is now the LePrevost place, then bought a house on Rockwell Road south of Route 23. Forty years later, the Parks are proud parents of four daughters: Beth, Susie, Rebecca, and Andrea, and have seven grandchildren. They now live up the hill and across the road at the former McIver house.

Jack McIver was postmaster until his death in 1971, and then Walter was appointed to take his place. There have been at least five clerks assisting him over the years, and some of these have also handled the cleaning contract, mopping up our muddy footprints all through the spring and keeping the glass windows on our mailboxes clean and shiny. Walter himself has kept the lawn mowed and is a property caretaker after hours for some other residences in town.

I asked Walter about his retirement plans and he said, "I am looking forward to some day-trips and time with my grandchildren." He has been on deck at the Post Office Monday through Friday, from 7:45 a.m. to 5:20 p.m., all these years.

### CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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Now, he says, "I might take up bowling again, and fishing."

As we sat in the back of the Post Office, I realized that I hadn't often seen Walter sitting down. I asked him if he was on his feet most of the day.

"Yes, just about all day," he said. I took a quick glance at his shoes to see if they were special-issue extra cushiony postmaster shoes. "No," he said with his usual courteous smile. "They are just regular shoes."

The atmosphere behind the counter of the Post Office is businesslike and functional. There are greenish metal objects of furniture and notices on the wall, including Walter's many awards and honors, and his certificate of appointment as postmaster. One of the counters in back has a sort of padded leather insert in its surface. Walter told me that this is the place where they used to do all the "hand cancelling," or stamping of the Monterey postmark. It used to take about an hour a day, "once you got going," but automation began in the 1970s and most hand cancelling stopped about then. Now the Monterey stamp is used only for big pieces of mail that won't go through the machines in Springfield, or for special requests.

As Walter Parks moves into his next phase of life in Monterey, we could all do

well to take a lesson from his attitude toward people, work, and management. Of the latter he says, "They're okay — they let me do my job. I figure if you don't bug me, I won't bug you." I asked him about inspectors looking over his shoulder, and he said you never know when someone is checking up on you. "There are what we call 'mystery shoppers' who come in and drop some money on the floor just to see if you will report

it properly. Or mail will be put in here with incorrect addressing and then you have to deal with it a certain way."

I sat at Walter's desk during our interview, and from time to time customers would come to the window and see me back there. A look of alarm, and then, "Don't tell me YOU are our new postmaster??" In fact, for many days there was no clue as to who would be starting work on June 1, stepping into Walter's "regular shoes." We knew that Pat Hamling, our clerk, had applied for the job but we also knew that the job was open to anyone qualified and that she would be given no particular preference, even though she has worked at our Post Office for ten years. Distant bureaucracies just don't work that way.

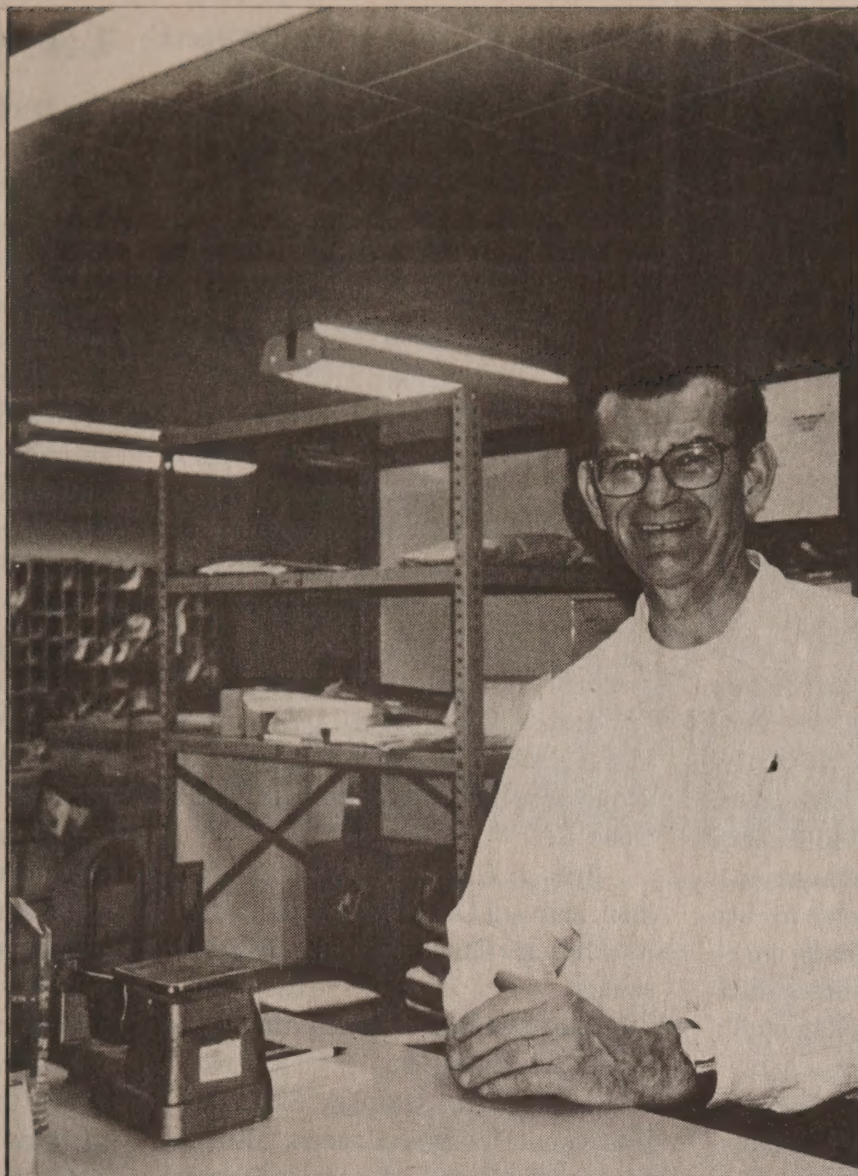
So there were big smiles last Saturday, May 26, when Pat got the phone

call telling her the job was hers. We don't know how much of Walter's unfailing humor will still greet us when we buy stamps: "Oh, look—you get some change back, too. That's good, isn't it?" Or when we hand in a yellow card, full of expectation, only to be presented with the new telephone book: "Aw. Better luck next time." Pat will get the chance now to develop her own ways of dealing with our little ups and downs at the mailbox, and Walter will be asking her for his packages, just like the rest of us.

As I left after our interview, I said with a quiver in my voice, "Well, I hope I'll still run into you at the Post Office, Walter, when you get your mail. Or are you going to put up a box by your driveway?"

"Oh, no," he laughed, "I wouldn't do that. I'd have to change my address to Great Barrington."

— Bonner J. McAllester



Glynis Oliver

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## From the Meetinghouse . . .

"I will not let you go, unless you bless me." (*Jacob wrestling with an angel, Gen. 32*)

I have been blessed to do ministry here: living in the Berkshires, preaching every week, knowing the wonderful people of the church and of this town. And learning, with some strain, that I wasn't knit to be a parish minister. It's been a hard realization to come to; like Jacob, I've been wrestling with an angel. It's been challenging, sometimes difficult, but in the end I am leaving with a blessing.

I hope I have been able to leave the congregation and the town with a blessing, too.

The angel gave Jacob a new name, and as folks wrestle with this life we discover new identities, too. I've studied the history of the Monterey Church this year: the coming and going of pastors, the community building of the 70s and early 80s, the sexual misconduct case of the late 80s, the lay ministry, and the capital campaign. This congregation has wrestled with some tough angels, and has become different. Folks have left, and folks have come. Gould Farm folks have become more involved over the past ten years. The building is almost entirely new, and the sanctuary is in the process of being awakened. "See, I am doing a new thing," God says (Isaiah 43:19). Endings are beginnings. There is an energy in the Monterey Church that will continue to reinvent itself, and take us along with it, I think.

As for me, this June I'll be doing intensive classwork at Andover Newton five days a week for three weeks! In the fall I'll be studying and living there full

time. I want to study theology, and whether that takes me to teaching, to writing, to chaplaincy, or somewhere I can't imagine . . . well, I'm still talking to the angel about all that. I'll be around this summer, so stop by and worship with us, if you like, or come to a cultural event. We have a busy summer schedule!

**June 4:** Pentecost, joint worship with the Tyringham Union Church.

**June 10:** Heidi returns from a Midwest pilgrimage and a week of school to preach.

**June 17:** Ask the Pastor Sunday: Prepare a question to bring, and give the busy student a hand with the sermon!

**June 24:** Outdoor worship at the parsonage, (summer solstice, June 21).

**June 30, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.:** John Porcino, storyteller, for kids and adults, sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council.

**July 1:** Guest preacher: Liz Goodman, Harvard Divinity graduate, 2000.

**July 15:** Outdoor worship at the parsonage

**July 22:** Guest preacher: Alan Macy, interim area minister.

**August 18, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.:** Unity and Diversity Concert, all ages, sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. More information next issue.

— Heidi Haverkamp

## Lake Garfield Assoc. News

It's that time again. After a very cold and snowy winter, life is returning to the lake in the form of geese, ducks, herons, fishermen and boaters. No swimmers yet. Because of the prolonged cold, the weeds should be at a minimum this summer. There are three meeting dates scheduled as usual: June 23, July 21 and August 18, at 9 a.m. at the Firehouse. We invite everyone who loves the lake to come to the June meeting and become involved by joining one of our teams:

- Town Beach: issues around beach usage
- Boating and Recreation: fun stuff, like Lake Fest last year
- Finance: raising money for environmental sampling and lake activities
- Aesthetics: keeping the lake beautiful
- Science and Ecology: monitoring water quality and alien weed growth
- Governance: strengthening connections with Town Boards.

We ask for a yearly contribution of \$20 a family from all lake lovers and users. These contributions go a long way toward helping us maintain the health and beauty of the lake. Please send checks made out to Lake Garfield Association, PO Box 176, Monterey, MA 01245.

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# Monterey Fire Dept. News

Monterey Fire Dept. activities for the previous month were:

- 4/16: Emergency Medical Service call
- 4/22: Emergency Medical Service call
- 4/29: Brush and grass fire
- 4/29: Forest and woodland fires (2)
- Total Calls: 5

At ten in the morning on April 29, the firefighters extinguished a fire near Lake Buell that had gotten out of control from a burn pile due to a sudden gust of wind. A short time later, they were called to the woodland across Route 23 from the Roadside Store, where another burn pile had gone out of control under the same conditions.

On Thursday evening, May 17, The Berkshire County Chiefs Association held their monthly business meeting, this time in the Monterey Firehouse. The Fire Chiefs from the companies of all the towns, after standing as an assembly to take the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States, rose individually to report the number of calls each company had responded to in the past month.

Vital subjects taken under consideration and discussion were all underlined by a mission statement of mutual reliance and responsibility. A particular concern in this meeting was the policy of legal responsibility in case of injury or death of their members. A procedural framework was established, as well as a special team of three chiefs to act as ready counselors

Glynis Oliver



*Mitchell and Matthew Amstead waiting with dad Mark for Memorial Day parade*

to give immediate help to the families involved.

Member chiefs of The Association were then urged to write to Senator Nuciforo stating their support and concern for the status of a bill under ammendment to renew the "Fire Fighter Safety Grant," which in previous years has been instrumental to the well being of their financial bottom lines. Member chiefs were also asked to warn people in their districts about telemarketing calls on behalf of the "Mass. Call Volunteer Association" because for \$1.00 donated, no less than \$.83 goes to the telemarketing firm, and only \$.17 to the firefighters.

Pride in their Chiefs Association was manifested by their care and interest in a new design for their logo. A matter of interest relating to the prestige and appreciation of firefighters was the mention of the sentence given to those who set the New England Log Homes fire. The judge not only gave them community service hours, but also required them to personally apologize for their actions to every member of each fire company that responded to the blaze. Appreciation of firefighters has taken on still another dimension of the community, and deservedly so.

— George Emmons

*Hear ye, hear ye!*

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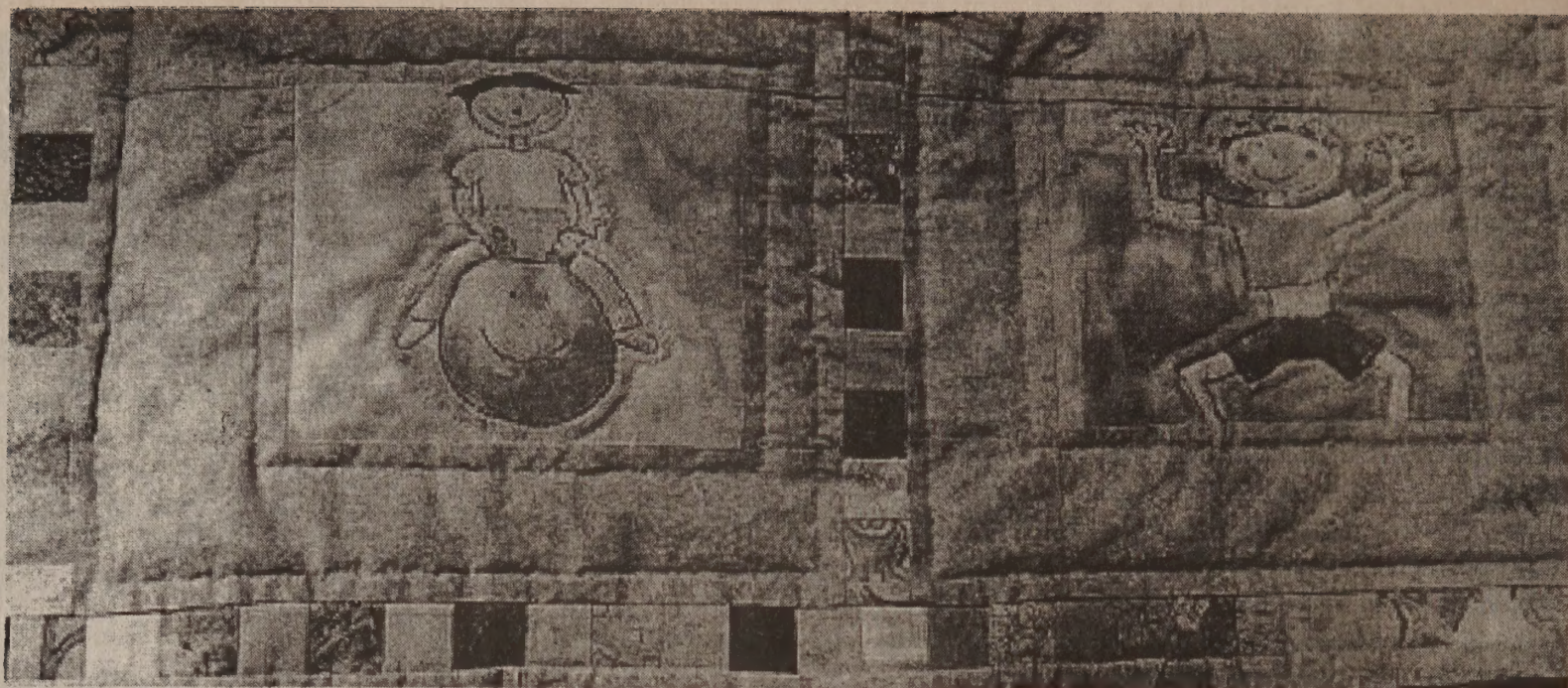
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*Detail of Monterey Piecemakers' quilt to be raffled to benefit town beach play area*

## Town Beach Opens Plat Area, Swimming Lessons Planned

The Park Commission announces that the public beach at Lake Garfield will open June 14th. Lifeguards will be on duty from 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Swimming Lessons will be offered during the weeks of July 23–27 and July 30–August 1. Registration forms will be available at the General Store, the Town Hall, and the Beach.

The Monterey Piecemakers have made a beautiful quilt to be raffled off this summer. The money raised from the raffle will be used to put swings up at the beach. Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the summer at the General Store and the beach. We are looking for volunteers to help the Park Commissioners sell raffle tickets. Call Denise Andrus for details, at 528-1723.

### MONTEREY A LOCAL HISTORY

Edited by Peter Murkett, Ian Jenkins, & Kim Hines

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## Quilt Raffle Benefits Town Beach Playground

The Monterey Piecemakers' raffle quilt for 2001 features a whimsical array of children at play. The charming images originated in England, and the quilters added occasional accents of embroidery and applique. Predominantly blue, the quilt dances with color.

Although the focus is children, "The Playground Quilt" is not nursery-sized, but will comfortably fit a twin bed. Or it might hang as a focal point on a child's bedroom wall, either at home or at Grandma's house.

Ten dollars gives you six opportunities to take this quilt home to someone

you love while you also contribute to a fund that will provide playground equipment for the Lake Garfield beach. (Two dollars gets you one chance, if you're feeling like your luck is particularly focused this season.)

Watch for a troupe of Monterey Moms and their friends to focus raffle ticket sales in the center of town through the summer. Contact Denise Andrus to volunteer to sell tickets, and for information, 528-1723.

The Monterey Piecemakers involved in the creation of this year's quilt are Marcia Doelman, Jan Emmons, Pam Johnson, MaryKate Jordan, Gige O'Connell, Glynis Oliver, Barabra Tryon, and Carole Zarin.

— MaryKate Jordan

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## The Scenic Mountain Act

Why protect hills, mountains, ridgelines, and steep slopes?

The highland areas described in the Monterey Scenic Mountain Act have been used for housing slowly, in part because of more difficult access than land areas in flat, accessible town geography. The decades-long relief given to the mountains after long periods of farming and tree cutting has allowed these areas to develop naturally and provide numerous functions and values worth protecting. These values are: flood and erosion control; water purification; breeding, spawning, nursery, and feeding areas for wildlife; sediment and pollution trapping; and, of course, recreation. Additionally, these areas are in constant view and provide us with landscapes, views, and scenic qualities. While we may individually own the property described in our deeds, each of our properties contribute to these public benefits.

What will be regulated under the Monterey Scenic Mountain Act?

The land areas described in the Scenic Mountain Act are subject to the impacts of driveway construction; land clearing for construction; construction of house and structures, accessory buildings and

uses, wells, septic systems, and underground power supplies; view or vista cutting; landscaping; and paving of land. What water falls onto or springs forth from our mountains and hills ends up flowing into our streams, rivers, lakes, and underground water supplies.

Project plans, conducted within the specific areas as defined in the Monterey Scenic Mountain Act, will be reviewed to determine how the applicant intends to protect the functions and values of

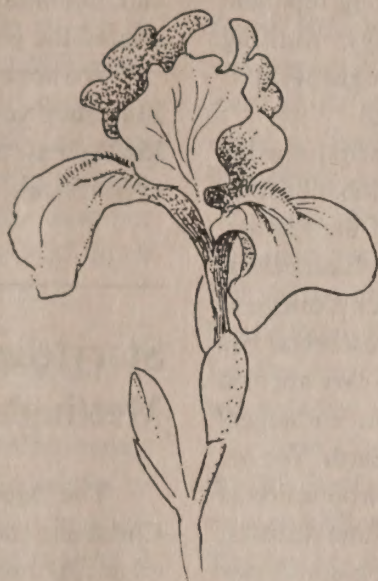
these areas. In this way it is similar to the Wetlands Protection Act: While a landowner would not be prohibited from building a house, the process will be regulated. In these sensitive areas, the construction methods, the extent of clearing, the control of erosion, and other concerns must be conducted in a manner that reduces or eliminates adverse impact to the visual, habitat, and hydrologic qualities of our

town and its geography.

An applicant would need SMA approval from the Conservation Commission before beginning a project.

Address any comments or questions to Chris Blair, Town Hall, PO Box 308, Monterey, 01245.

— Judy Bach



## Anson Olds Trio to Perform in Sandisfield

On Saturday, June 9, at 8 p.m., the Anson Olds Band will perform at the Sandisfield Arts Center. The trio blends old-time, fiddle, traditional, and original bluegrass music, with inspiring vocals, three-part harmonies, and energetic instrumentals. Tickets are \$12.50 at the door.

The trio includes Anson Olds, a resident of Monterey and highly respected fiddle player. An accomplished singer/songwriter, Anson is a master at finger and flat picking guitar and has performed at festivals throughout the country and hosted a bluegrass radio show broadcast on National Public Radio. He is the music teacher at Undermountain School in Sheffield. Dave Orlamaski, from Colebrook, Connecticut, has an innovative style of banjo picking based on traditional finger rolls and is also a master at flat picking guitar. Currently a member of the Bear Bridge Band, Dave performs at festivals on the East Coast. He judges at local fiddle contests and is a guitar and mandolin builder by trade. Tom Buck, mandolinist, lives in Sandisfield. His style ranges from old-time to modern improvisation. He is an originator/member of the Big Blue Holler Rock Band.

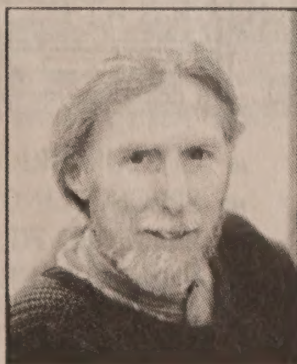
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## Beartown State Forest Hosts Family Day June 23 Free Canoe and Kayak Use, Live Music

On Saturday, June 23 Beartown State Forest in Monterey has planned an afternoon of family fun at Benedict Pond with recreational paddling and live music. Appalachian Mountain Gear, Co. of Great Barrington will provide the free use of their canoes and kayaks, and instruction, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Benedict Pond is a wonderful 35-acre body of water where one can swim, fish, and paddle. Lifeguards will be on duty.

At 2 p.m. The Crashers will perform at the beach area. This original music with an Irish twist is played on instruments such as the mandolin, mandocello, and classical guitar. Players include Don Harris, Byron Renderer, and Sue Higgins.

This event is sponsored by the Department of Environmental Management and is free and open to the public.

For further directions to Beartown State Forest off Blue Hill Road from Route 23, call (413) 528-0904.



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## June 21 Day of Prayers for World Peace and Healing

Everyone is invited to gather on the morning of June 21 to walk to a local power spot on Mt. Hunger Road for a short ceremony and prayers for peace and healing of the Earth. We will meet at Greene Park at 7 a.m. and leave at 7:15 by car pool or caravan, then walk for about five minutes through the woods to the site. The ceremony and prayers will last about half an hour. Bring bug repellent (preferably Earth friendly), walking shoes, and anything you might want to contribute to the ceremony.

June 21 has been designated as a day of worldwide prayers for global healing by Chief Looking Horse of the Lakota, Nakota and Dakota Nation. Last February he spoke at Simon's Rock College to a full house of Berkshire residents. His message is straightforward: "We are on a course that is leading to the endangerment of our tired Mother Earth. We are now in the midst of what is prophesied as the crossroads, faced with either disaster, chaos, diseases ... or uniting spiritually with all Nations upon Mother Earth."

With this message Chief Looking Horse has been traveling around the world inviting all to unite in prayer for global healing on the 21st of June. He encouraged us, wherever possible, to gather at

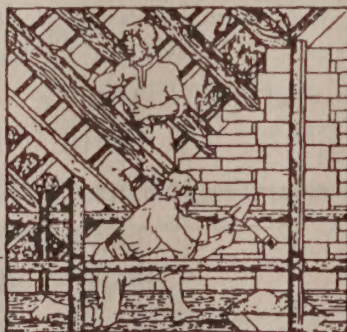
the sacred sites and power points which are spread across the face of the Earth. All of these points are joined by Earth energy lines, creating a planetary web of communicating energies. June 21 marks the summer solstice, and this year it also coincides with the new moon and with a solar eclipse which occurs at 7:55 a.m. (not visible in the Northern Hemisphere, however). All of these factors bring exceptionally powerful energies into play with the potential of magnifying an awareness of the interconnectedness of all things and potentiating the prayers sent out around the world.

We hope to see many of you on the 21st, but if you can't come to Mt. Hunger Road, please add your prayers from wherever you are.

— Kathie Frome

## Storyteller John Porcino at Meetinghouse on June 30

The Monterey United Church of Christ and the Monterey Cultural Council are sponsoring a performance by storyteller John Porcino in the church basement on Saturday, June 30, at 10 a.m. Mr. Porcino has appeared in Monterey and other local towns many times and has been extremely popular with children and adults.



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## South Berkshire Family Network June News

[This listing is not complete. Call (413) 528-0721 for more information.]

Drop-in times at Great Barrington site, 940 South Main Street, are Mondays through Fridays, 2-4 p.m. Please call for an appointment if this is not convenient. Families are invited to use the play room, clothing exchange, and lending library.

People's Pantry: St. Peter's Parish Center, corner of East and Cottage Streets. Open every Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Please use lower level entrance off Russell Street. Do not park in the driveway.

Regular playgroups will end June 15. We will have special events planned for the rest of the month. Summer playgroups will begin the week of July 9 and end the week of August 20.

### June Calendar Of Events (Partial)

Events are held at the Family Center, 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington, unless otherwise stated. It is helpful to plan activities if people call to register. We definitely need prior registration if child care is needed. We appreciate your help with this. Many of our summer events are held rain or shine. Please call the Family Center if you are not sure an event is being held.

**June 1, 4, 8, Mondays and Fridays,** Play and Learn playgroup will meet. Registration is required.

Summer Play and Learn classes will begin June 25 and meet on Mondays and Fridays until August 10. Parents are asked to call to register for Summer Play and Learn.

**June 1, 8, Fridays:** Art from the Heart led by Jessica Redman. June 1 topic will be Painting and June 8 topic will be Collage. This is a program geared for 2, 3, and 4 year olds. 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m.

**June 4, 11, 18, 25, Mondays:** Sunflower Hour led by June Wolfe. Children will plant a garden at the Family Center, learn about plants, listen to stories and share a snack. This program will go through the summer. 1 p.m.

**June 12, Tuesday:** Big Sprouts, Little Sprouts playgroup. The Great Barrington Rehabilitation and Nursing Center will hold a Penny Carnival to thank the families that have visited them this year. All are welcome. 10:30 a.m.

**June 12, Tuesday:** Silly Science at the Otis Family Center. Children will work on Messy Mixtures, led by Jessica Redman. The activity is appropriate for three and four year olds. Call the Great Barrington Family Center to register. 10 a.m.

**June 14, Thursday:** Field trip to Berkshire Botanical Garden. The theme will be Planting a Rainbow, Colors in the

Garden. The size of the group is limited to 12 children. Meet at the Center House at 10:30 a.m. This is sponsored by the Richmond Arts Council.

**June 18, 25, Mondays:** A two-part basket workshop led by Wendy Jensen. Participants will create a harvest basket. \$30 for materials. Some scholarships available. Please call to register. 6 p.m.

**June 19, Tuesday:** Hike Diane's Trail, Gould Farm, Monterey. Bring a picnic lunch. 10:30 a.m. Park up the road from Diane's Trail.

**June 21, 28, Thursdays:** Sand and Water Play at Benedict Pond, Beartown State Park, Monterey. The Family Network has a parking waiver for the day. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the lake and woods. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**June 22, Friday:** Music at the Guthrie Center led by Betty Long. Sing some songs, play some instruments, hear a story, and share a snack. 10:30 a.m.

**June 26, Tuesday:** Hike at Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. Bring a picnic lunch. 10:30 a.m.

**June 30, Saturday:** Father-child hike, Diane's Trail, Gould Farm, Monterey. Hear a story and share a snack. 10:30 a.m.

**Tuesdays, June 5, 12:** Parent-child playgroup, Sandisfield Community Center, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Fridays, June 1, 8, 15:** Parent-child playgroup, Otis Town Hall, Lower Level, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Housatonic, Guthrie Center, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

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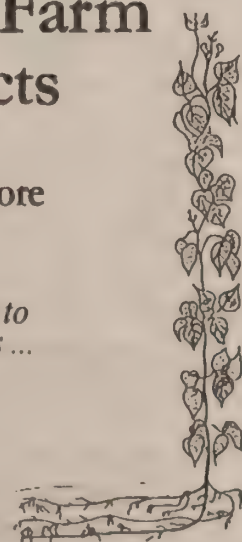
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## Monterey May Lose Blood Pressure Clinic

Did you know that Monterey is in danger of losing our blood pressure clinic?

For a number of years Monterey has had the services of the Visiting Nurses Association offering a blood pressure clinic in our town once a month. But now we are facing the loss of this opportunity because so few townspeople are taking advantage of the clinic.

Perhaps it is because we have changed the meeting place so often recently. We are now holding the clinic in the basement of the Monterey Meeting-house on the third Tuesday of each month from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. with Visiting Nurse Susan Kaufman.

There are a number of services she offers besides taking your blood pressure: health counseling, discussion of medications and discussion of one's general health.

Available also is an assortment of health literature that is very helpful.

— Shirley Olds, Council on Aging

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## CET Textile Drive Results

Over 48,000 pounds of textiles were collected in Berkshire County during the Sixth Annual Earth Day Clothing and Textile Drive coordinated by the Center for Ecological Technology, (CET) in partnership with Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires. Over 2,910 pounds of clothing were collected at the Monterey Church drop site.

"Berkshire County residents really responded to this effort," said Alyssa Nelson, CET coordinator of this year's drive. "We've discovered that the drive meets a community need, and our partnership with Goodwill ensured that a large portion of the materials collected stayed right here in Berkshire County. Textiles, including clothing, shoes, bedding and drapes, represent an estimated 5 percent of waste generated by the average household. Instead of throwing away old clothes or bedding, this annual drive supports Goodwill Inc. and provides inexpensive clothes and goods to people who need them."

CET coordinated this years textile drive with assistance from the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District and the Tri-Town Health Department (Lee, Lenox, and Stockbridge).

"Our partnership with CET has proven to be extremely successful. We were delighted with the quantity and

quality of the materials collected this year," said Tom Speckert, Executive Director of Goodwill. "CET arranged for collection sites around the county and we coordinated the pickups. All materials collected are used for employment and training opportunities for individuals with disabilities."

CET would like to thank the Elm St. Banks; First Mass, Inc., Berkshire Bank, and Lee Bank Pittsfield Loan Office for advertising support. Other supporters include: Harry's Supermarket on Wahconah Street, Papa Joe's Pizza, BFI and Berkshire Community College students for volunteering time to help, the New Marlborough Town Hall, Monterey United Church of Christ, Old Parish Church in Sheffield, Washington Transfer Station, Southern Berkshire YMCA, Uncommon Grounds and Mama's Earth in Great Barrington, Crispina Designs in Housatonic, Tri-Town Health Dept. in Lee, the Williamstown Youth Center, the Lanesboro Town Hall, the Northern Berkshire YMCA, North Adams Stop and Shop, Clarksburg Town Hall, and the Florida Store for being drop-off sites.

CET is a non-profit community organization active in the fields of energy and resource conservation and waste management, with offices in Pittsfield and Northampton, and is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



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## Rep Rap

Most of you have heard the alarming statistics and stories by now. The rate of drug and alcohol abuse by youth in southern Berkshire County is among the highest in Massachusetts. More than half the students at the local high school engaged in binge drinking within four weeks to responding to a recent survey on alcohol use, which is more than twice the national average. In the last four years more than twenty local youths under twenty-two years of age have died from suicide, drug overdoses, and alcohol-related car accidents. In a recent graduating class of 115 students, five people died from these causes, and now an outbreak of hepatitis C has swept the community. These figures, particularly in a small, rural and isolated area, demanded action.

The potential solution for this public health crisis has come in a unique package. The Railroad Street Youth Project (RSYP) was formed over one year ago to address the root issues that led to the wave of premature deaths and destructive behaviors. RSYP is unique in that it is a youth-run youth organization where the executive director is just twenty years old. RSYP works within a peer group, along with some direction from a board of directors composed of "adult aged" advocates and supporters. The Children's Health Program has served as a mentor to RSYP providing technical assistance with everything from funding sources to administrative and programmatic matters. The RSYP wants to empower young people by pursuing and offering a wide range of entrepreneurial, cultural, and environmental programs that promote self-worth, re-

Will Marsh



*Monterey veterans gathered at Veterans Memorial Park for Memorial Day remembrance.*

sponsibility, and intergenerational communications. In the course of these efforts the group has established more than twenty partnerships with local organizations and institutions to develop a highly comprehensive, integrated, and all-inclusive approach to deal with the issues of substance abuse and other risk behaviors.

The RSYP has sponsored more than thirty drug- and alcohol-free events and initiated several innovative programs that empower young people to take an active role in their community. Activities include outreach counseling, promotion of available health services to youth, co-sponsoring a forum on how arts are an effective way to reach at-risk youth, community service projects, business incubation that serve community interests, and arts programming in conjunction with the esteemed arts organizations in the Berkshires. The RSYP is a vital and vibrant organization that has found a way to galvanize youth to care about their lives in a

meaningful way while becoming a positive force in the community. They have been running this program on the generosity of local donations and contributions from private resources. However for them to succeed I believe that the state needs to play a role in their success story as they are providing solutions to a public health crisis in our community.

To that end, after much advocacy and the willingness to have many a door shut in their faces, I am proud to report that the House of Representatives has included funding for the Railroad Street Youth project in this year's budget. While the budget still needs to hurdle several more steps before its completion, this marks a potential auspicious partnership. Once again Berkshire-bred ingenuity has initiated an inclusive grassroots approach to solving a serious problem. This is the part of the crisis that often doesn't make the headlines: the part about the people working hard behind the scenes to make sure our local youth are no longer at risk for substance abuse or auto fatalities and suicides. While we haven't gotten the problem beat, we are on our way, quite like the little engine that could.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at my full-time district office at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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(for Sarah)

*amused, floreted in forsythia,  
 21 to be exact, upon the stem  
 while 21 guns salute the heroic  
 casualties of only our latest war  
 and 21 inches of snow contraceptive  
 the blade of my spade in the garden bed  
 while in the beds of lovers sleeping creeps  
 the noxious stuff of 21 leaking tanks  
 there! 21 deer grazing on the first  
 green shoots of one thawed field alongside the road  
 where all along the world 21 wars  
 are being fought to forget our human goal  
 then suddenly along the woodland path,  
 pardon me, 21 wild turkeys take flight  
 as suddenly your high school lunch room lord  
 serves up 21 bodies bleeding needless  
 for 21 days of gathering and  
 boiling down the maples blood sweet gold is wrought  
 and 21 days of gathering 'round  
 and boiling down old wall street blood, naught is naught  
 somewhere in the veils of dusk the wood cock  
 beeps and flutters 21 times around us  
 as in the mask of night another girl  
 cries and sputters 21 pleas — god damned lust!  
 the night air chills the rising clouds of fog,  
 moon hiding, while 21 stars seek you out  
 but down in town no stars or moon exist  
 at all, just 21 thousand lights left on*

### haiku

*Life is a mine field  
 Concealing false assumptions  
 waiting to explode*

— Beryl McAllester

*fresh kids scampering, 21 in all,  
 about the savory chevre, so fat so rich  
 this spring in Ramallah is scattering rocks  
 and bullets, 21 lean kids falling dead  
 in the ponds the peepers sing the 21  
 variations on the psalm of mating  
 while underneath the rubble of buildings  
 from earth's last shudder lie 21 thousand  
 how this diapered girl who drank her oat milk  
 now sips anything at the 21 Club  
 in the spring that spawned 21 thousand  
 gallons of oil swimming toward another shore  
 bemused, the juggler, 21 hands in all,  
 to toss these spheres of death and birth and you*

— R. Zukowski

### Tranquility

*On balmy summer evenings  
 When the air is calm and still  
 And the puffy clouds  
 Float lazily along  
 We can hear the drowsy lowing  
 Of the cattle on the hill  
 While the woodland thrushes  
 Sing their vesper song.  
 The murmuring brook meanders  
 High above the nighthawks fly,  
 And the fragrance of the moonflowers  
 Fills the air.  
 The drifting clouds dispersing  
 Make pictures in the sky  
 And a peacefulness is present everywhere.*

— Eleanor Kimberley



## Saturnus magister

*It is a sin to bargain with a corpse  
not only is there no profit  
but the loss is never noticed —  
no  
rather take those webs of bone  
the fearful overtaking  
of the past, the preconceptions, the dead within  
and crumble up their true fragility to meal  
calcify the pains of carbon to a light  
to feed the blood  
and dream your heritage to wisdom  
in the deep, in sleep —  
breathe in their blessing  
breathe out under the rough blanket of real  
the sighs of their relief.*

*What would happen, I wonder, if we pulled back  
all projections at a once?  
would not the world end  
leave us but verticals of flame, paupers of flesh  
lacking time's compassion  
as in the sequential falling of the rain:  
a flame without a candle  
a fragrance without a flower  
a death dealing life  
lacking flexion and diffusion?*

*daylight is our balm  
earth's halo  
fractured crystals of exhalation  
a cloak of mercy woven by the moon  
the sun's gift  
and still we reach beyond, impatient  
in torment through spectral colors  
to the dark of one night's stain*

*I wonder, is purity worth its stink?  
death roisters gleefully through corruption  
up the corn and grins  
renewed in golden satiated grain*

*lie down, my soul, lie down, my love  
in peace, and stretch with me  
and dream in trinities of green  
lie down to the underside of things:  
of flowers, deeds, of values, pain  
take you death's view  
its comfort certainty  
with no disdain*

*but never bargain with a corpse  
there's not the gain.*

— A. O. Howell

## haiku

*Birds  
notes of their songs remain  
untidy picnic table*

\*

*Stormy night  
awake, listening  
silence*

\*

*Heavy rain  
scarecrow  
bowing in the sunset*

\*

*Roadside lilies  
through broken bottles  
arise*

— Ann M. LaVallee



## Firefly on the Kitchen Table

Nearly four weeks ago a mysterious creature appeared on our kitchen floor. We don't know how it got there and we didn't know what it was — though it is not true that we had never seen "anything like it" before.

We put it on the kitchen table. It was a little over an inch long and was dark gray with a few elements of pink. It also had six legs and about eleven segments, depending upon where you started counting and what you considered a segment to be. It had a kind of shield at the head end, and out from under this there would protrude a neck from time to time, with a small head at the end of it. This head had two short stubby antennae.

At the tail end there was also a protrusible, retractable piece of equipment. This looked like a tube. The creature could walk along on its six legs, which were located quite far forward, and then boost its tail end by shoving off again and again with this tube/tail. The segments, seen from above, were flattened and each had a shield-like topside, reminiscent of the head shield. The pink elements, which were like broken stripes, were on the underside.

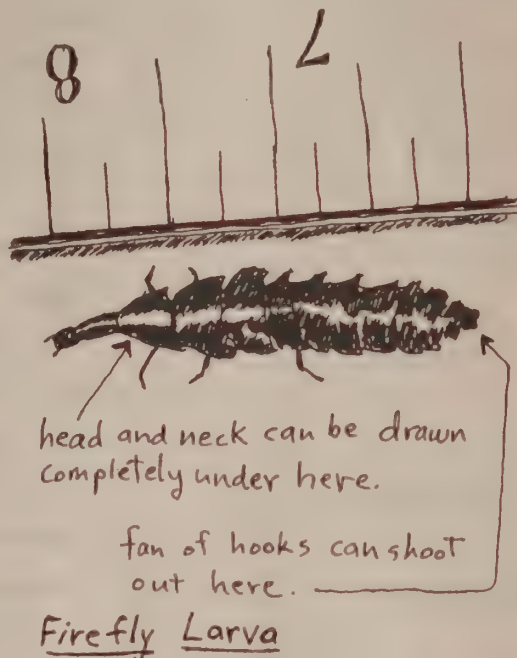
There were no wings.

Two ideas popped into my head. Because of the coloring and the head shield, I thought of fireflies. Adult fireflies are grey with pink bits and they have a head shield. The other thought I had was that this might be an insect larva—because although it had six legs, like an insect, it had no wings. Fireflies, believe it or not, are beetles (which are insects of course, but different from flies). So if this was to be a firefly larva, it would have to be a beetle larva. I thought of beetle larvae I have known, and somehow none of them seemed as fancy as this creature. I was so impressed with it that I wanted it to be an adult, not a temporary adolescent of some sort.

My firefly theory was a good one, but I knew that firefly larvae can glow. I'd read this and I even thought that somewhere in my distant and largely forgotten past I had seen a firefly larva glowing, though on the other hand this might have been a glow-worm, which is

not the same thing at all. This creature was not glowing, but it had a pale place at the tail end which looked capable of such a thing.

I turned to the books but they were full of adults, not larvae. My relatives down the road have a friend in England whose son is a well-known entomologist. So Dad borrowed the creature and drew its picture. I took a photo with a ruler alongside the thing and we sent all this off to England. By this time quite a few people had scrutinized our marvelous visitor/prisoner, and a new wonder had



emerged. It turned out that the tube-like tail, used for pushing along, had a secret piece of paraphernalia right out of James Bond. Inside the tube there was a set of golden hooks! They would shoot out all at once, in a sort of fan, and they could

grip a surface, such as a twig or a fingertip, enabling the beast to hang by its tail. The hooks were tiny and the golden fan could slip back up inside the tube in a flash. Like I said, this seemed way too advanced and specialized to be temporary, larval equipment. I wanted this to be a grown-up, though now that the story is largely played out, I can't say why.

These early days of introduction finally revealed two tiny spots of luminescence in the last segments of the tail. Now I knew that fancy or not, we had a firefly larva on our table. I looked it up. It was reputed to be a predator, a carnivore, both as an adult and as a larva. So I grabbed the nearest fruitfly (we were having a hatch in our chicken-treats bucket on the counter) and dangled it near the head end. Not a flicker. The young firefly was active, maybe even frantic, in its little jar, but it would not eat. I dribbled a little water in now and then, careful not to make things too soggy, but I never saw it drink.

Right about here we began to have qualms of conscience. How long could we keep this most ingenious youngster in a jar before we harmed it, through starvation or incorrect temperature and humidity? We were lying awake nights over this when suddenly it fell dormant. I would have said, "Suddenly it died," except that when gently poked, the little thing would glow.

For a few days I kept the dirt moist and kept the faith (and gave it a little poke now and then to reassure myself I had not killed it.) It would always respond with two points of cool light.

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Then one day it began to wriggle and change! It was metamorphosing into a pupa, quite similar looking though a bit stubby. The larval skin split and came nearly all the way off, but not quite. It stuck down near the tail. I remembered that it had hung by its hooks on a pine needle for awhile but that my messing with it had jostled it loose. Now I worried that it was looking to wriggle away from the pine needle, leaving the whole larval skin behind, and that I had robbed it of its anchor. More sleepless nights. At last, on Tuesday, May 22, the final metamorphosis began. Now the pupal skin was coming away. It had two little wing precursors, like embryonic wings, and they just peeled away. Underneath was a real firefly!

But it wasn't perfect. In fact, one of its adult wings got caught in the pupal skin for several hours. The other one was free and expanding, the way the wings of a monarch butterfly do after it emerges, but the stuck one was cramped. Carefully I eased the old skin off, using a needle. I never nicked the precious creature, but my ministrations were too late and that wing never straightened out. Also the legs were somehow tangled up in pupal skin and never came out right.

Here we are a week later almost, and that plucky mess of a firefly lives still. It is in its jar, with the wrong temperature and humidity and nothing to eat. I have to say that it has not glowed for a day or two, but then I have quit poking it, too. (It probably thinks I have died at last.) But I know it lives because now and then it wakes up and wiggles its good wing or its little gnarled up legs. To me it is a sad

thing to be responsible for this failure of insect destiny. Never will our firefly light up the evening in our orchard, advertising his or her reproductive potential. There will be no eggs, no larvae with golden hooks in their tail tubes springing from the loins of this mangled bug.

Just when I feel about ready to turn myself in to the insect rights commission or go make a weeping confession to the goddess of the orchard, I remember a few more things: if I hadn't spotted it and put it on the kitchen table, this bug would probably have been flattened long ago by my own huge foot, or maybe sucked up in the vacuum cleaner. And if somehow that James Bondian larva had never come into our house, it might have been lunch for a phoebe weeks ago. Furthermore, from the point of view of this individual scrap of life, what's the problem? It has never seen the way other fireflies live and die—it only knows that it lies in an acorn cap in a damp jar of dirt, passed out most of the time. Now and then it gives a good wiggle, and this is the full life it leads. Who am I to say it is better or worse off than some other firefly? Its photo and its pen and ink portrait have gone to England. Before too long it will have to succumb for lack of nourishment, and then it will find itself in the chicken treats bucket with the fruitflies, headed for its next metamorphosis. It will become an egg, and I'll eat it for breakfast. Then that mangled-up little firefly will be me, 24-7, as they say. We will have merged and in my dreams you'll know me by my pink elements and golden tail hooks.

— Bonner J. McAllester

## Tracking Workshop at Savoy Mtn. State Forest

Savoy Mountain State Forest is proud to present John McCarter, Paul Rezendes' assistant, who will lead a five-hour workshop on tracking animals on June 30 from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Participants will learn "the art of seeing" animal tracks and how one can read the woods. Space availability is limited to fifteen participants, and registration is required. This program is suitable for adults and children thirteen years or older. To register, call Jeanne Schnackenberg at (413) 528-0904.

For this workshop be prepared to stay in the woods for the day. Dress appropriately with sturdy hiking boots, long pants and long sleeved shirts to protect your self from brush and ticks. We will be bushwhacking, so proper attire is necessary. Bring bug repellent, plenty of water, and a bagged lunch. Registered participants should meet at 9:45 a.m. at the Campground Contact Station, where parking is available.

This program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management and is free and open to the public. For directions to Savoy State Forest off Rt. 2, call (413) 663-8469.



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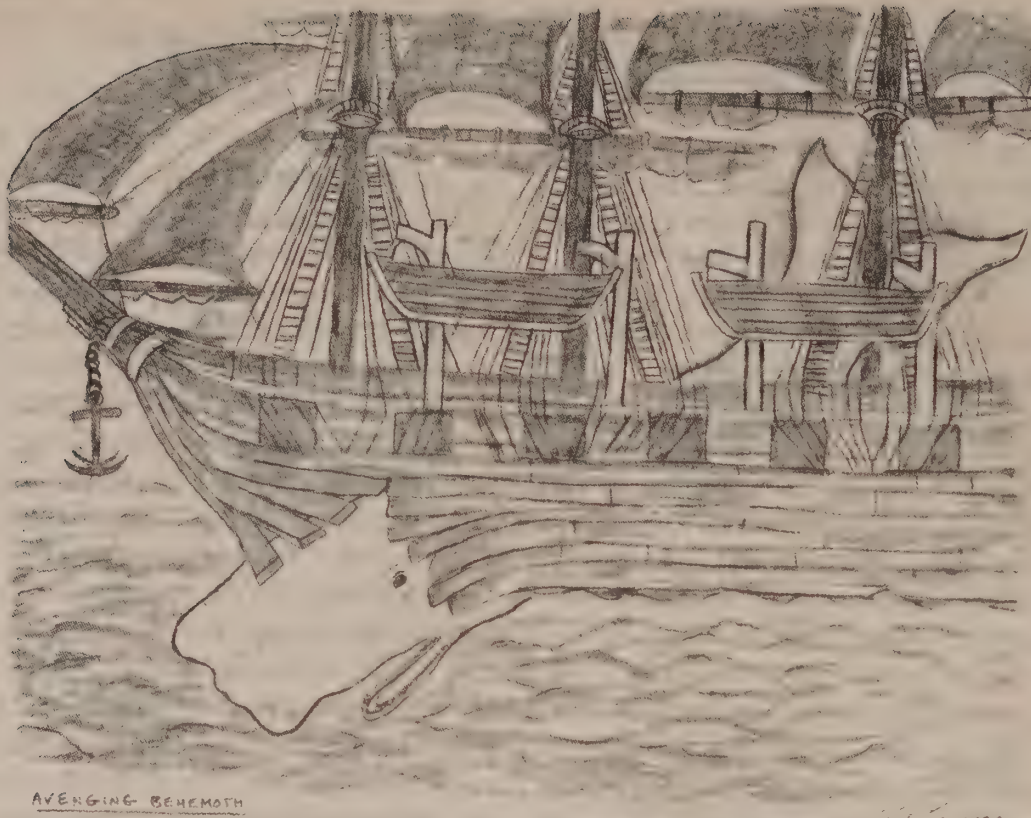
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AVENGING BEHEMOTH

DS. V. V. V.

## Avenging Behemoth

Herman Melville finished writing his novel *Moby Dick* in Pittsfield in 1851. Four years before, in 1847, the distant cluster of country houses nestled together just over the mountains to the south, which collectively would be called Monterey, became an official township. So while Melville had been crafting in his mind the post and beams of a literary vessel, which carried him into immortality, plans were also laid down here to raise a meetinghouse in the new town center. Today it stands as a Greek-revival-style landmark of that period.

The square church tower that rose over the other rooftops and graced their

picturesque profiles housed the bell that rang to begin a Sunday religious service, as it still does today. The building itself looks over the Konkapot River and the spillways of mills that made home products such as cotton, wool, combs, rakes, rat traps, and twine. Further to the west, but within a day's ride by horse and buggy (today an hour's drive along Route 23), was the whaling town of Hudson, New York, on the banks of the river with the same name. There, candles and soap were made from whale oil, combs and corsets from whale bone, and nitroglycerine extracted for explosives.

Many in Hudson had come from Nantucket, bringing their trades with them. Nantucket had been settled by Quakers

who found the island a haven from religious intolerance on the mainland. Surrounded by the fertile fishing waters off Nantucket, the Quakers learned whaling from the Wampanoag Indians. Indians were then often hired as harpooners on whaling ships, as on the *Pequod* in *Moby Dick*. As whaling towns prospered, the easily caught coastal whales were almost fished out. Then, quite by accident, ships going further out to sea discovered a mother lode of sperm whales, each worth as much as \$60,000, a fortune at that time. The word went out, and there was a nautical gold rush across the waters.

Sperm whales have the largest brain of any creature on Earth. They dive deeper, were hard to find and catch, and were dangerous when harpooned. As large as ten grown elephants, as long as eighty feet, with up to the same number of tons of flesh to bring aboard, they have a huge cranial cavity that contains its own treasure — spermaceti, from which smokeless candles could be mass produced for the first time. Another substance called ambergris came from their bowels and was used in expensive perfumes and cosmetics. In its heyday, Hudson had no less than ten whaling vessels able to go thousands of miles in pursuit. The trip of one hundred and twenty miles downriver to the ocean was a drop in the bucket, considering the potential rewards of several years at sea.

Melville and his young wife came to the Berkshires in 1850 after living in New

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York City. There he had enjoyed walking along the Hudson River where the salt air and sea breezes reminded him of his youth aboard a whaler in the Pacific. From that experience he had written a book about South Sea islanders' practice of cannibalism. Once he moved to Arrowhead near Pittsfield, he began traveling through local farmland to collect information for a paper on the varieties of grains and grasses in this area. The fire that fueled his engine to eventually write *Moby Dick* was sparked by the sinking of the whale ship *Essex*, out of Nantucket, by a sperm whale in the middle of the Pacific. Only a few of the crew survived, drifting endlessly in small boats, staying alive by eating dead companions. Melville later interviewed the *Essex* captain, who spent the rest of his days trying to outlive the stigma attached to his survival.

The *Essex* tragedy rekindled Melville's old obsession. He often dwelled on his fascination with the struggle between man and nature. The sperm whale would perfectly depict a dreaded weapon of divine destruction. His whale was white, considered by critics as unlikely and melodramatic. Not until much later did Japanese whalers catch and photograph a larger white sperm whale in the North Pacific, ending this controversy. When *Moby Dick* was first published, another whaling ship, the *Ann Alexander*, was rammed twice on purpose by an angry bull sperm whale, stoving in planks along the hull until she sank. When Melville got this news, instead of hearing it as further proof of the truth in his tall tale, he said, "I wonder if my evil art has raised this monster!"

Melville dedicated *Moby Dick* to his friend, neighbor, and mentor, Nathaniel Hawthorne. Every year there is a reenactment on Monument Mountain of their celebrated picnic together with Oliver Wendell Holmes. Upon reaching the top they had savored the view by popping champagne corks, lighting up good cigars, and drinking toasts to literary giants with whom they could associate their own perception of fame. Each glass was lifted in tribute to the success of authors who had visited or written in the Berkshires, such as Bryant and Longfellow. At the very pinnacle of that indulgence, a raging thunderstorm came upon them with high winds and pelting rain. Melville seized the opportunity of the moment to act as a maestro, orchestrating the tempest of man against nature. He climbed a rock, waving his arms, shouting out ship commands, becoming the fanatical character Ahab in his novel, ready to do battle with an avenging white behemoth.

Today, when we wash our hands with soap, or light a candle, whales are no longer being killed for these products and need not be on our conscience. Many other abusers of nature prevail. On Memorial Day weekend, for those who gather in houses of worship, bells will ring in the mountains, across the valleys, by the rivers, and near the sea, all over New England. In New Bedford, Massachusetts, the service at the venerable Seamen's Vessel is for those who went to the sea in ships. Melville once attended, and now bells toll for him as well.

— George Emmons

## Sandisfield Arts Center Upcoming Events

The Sandisfield Arts Center is growing with your help and participation. We love to see our neighbors from Monterey, Tolland, Otis, New Marlborough, Great Barrington, and beyond. Please join us this summer!

June is an exciting month with the ANSON OLDS BAND performing on Saturday, June 9 at 8 p.m. (\$12.50), and our first community ART SHOW earlier that day from 1 p.m.–5 p.m. Twelve artists from Sandisfield will show their work including paintings, photography, and sculpture. Some of the works are available to purchase. Admission is free. On June 23, Ellen Swan Mazzer will perform and teach MAGIC TRICKS to children of all ages at 11 a.m. at the Arts Center.

Don't forget to take advantage of our Subscription Series discount package (\$75 for nine programs).

Garden lovers take note. The first-ever COUNTRY GARDEN TOUR takes place in Sandisfield on Saturday, July 7, from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Three local nurseries will host educational demonstrations on topics ranging from mixed planters to dividing perennials. Visitors will also tour four of the most beautiful private gardens in Sandisfield. Tickets are \$15 at the Arts Center on the day of the event.

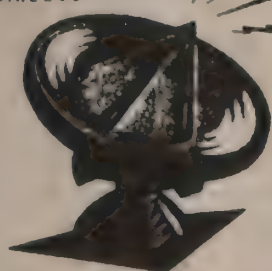
That evening, TRIPLE PLAY (Chris Brubeck, Joel Brown, and Peter "Madcat" Ruth) will perform in a benefit for the Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children. Tickets are \$25 (please reserve in advance by calling 258-4904).

CALLING ALL POETS! On Saturday, September 22, at 7 p.m., there will be a poetry reading at the Arts Center. Local and regional poets are invited to read and enjoy refreshments in a café-like setting downstairs. If you are interested in participating, please call Howard Faerstein at 258-8107.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is pleased to announce that the building is now open for public use at the rate of \$25/half day and \$50/full day. If you would like an application or more information on any of the above-mentioned events, please call Liana Toscanini at (413) 258-4904.

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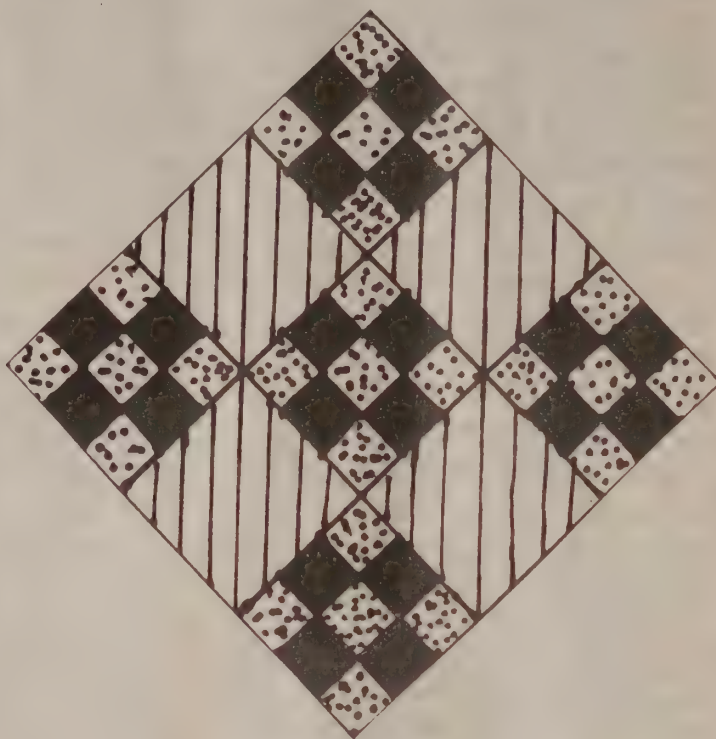
## A Stitch in Time

### Sixteen Monterey Quilts Documented Massachusetts History: Part 1 of 2

Several quilt documenters and a corps of other volunteers gathered in Sheffield on the last Saturday in April to welcome the first Berkshire County museums and residents to participate in the Massachusetts Quilt Documentation Project, with the Berkshire Quilt Guild as the local sponsor. Sixteen of the thirty-eight quilts documented that day were from Monterey. Fifteen make up part of the textiles collection at The Bidwell House Museum; one is a McAllester family heirloom. This article, the first of three, will focus on "The Carlson Quilt," a gift to the Bidwell House from Betty Lee Carlson.

A letter accompanying the gift states that "The Carlson Quilt" was made by Mrs. Carlson's great-grandmother Matilda Oldfield Gerber. The family, originally from Vermont, had migrated to Richland County, Ohio, many

years before Matilda was born in 1828. She married David Gerber in 1849 and they had eleven children. Matilda died in 1915, nine years after the death of her husband, who had been a Civil War veteran. The quilt was handed down from mother to daughter until Mrs. Carlson donated it to the museum.



*Series of "9-patch" blocks set "on point," separated by larger plain blocks to make a larger "9 patch"*

According to Margaret Childers, who documented the quilt's history, it is constructed with rows of cotton nine-patch and solid cotton squares, laid diagonally, or "on point." The smallest

squares — the ones lined up three by three to make the nine-patch blocks — measure two and one quarter inches along each side. Hand pieced and hand quilted, the multicolored quilt measures sixty four and one half by seventy two and three quarters inches overall. The binding is made from pieces of the same fabric used to create the pattern on the top of the quilt.

Ms. Childers estimates that it was made around 1850, so it is possible to speculate that it may have been made as a wedding quilt or, more likely, early in Matilda's marriage. "The Carlson Quilt," she also noted, is structurally sound, in excellent condition, with only a bit of fading on the front and staining on the back to show for its age.

In July, read about the documentation staff's reaction to the Bidwell House's magnificent collection of whole-cloth quilts. Some of them are kept on the beds in The Bidwell House Museum, so drop by for a visit in real time (on Art School Road, 528-6888) or check the website, [Bidwellhousemuseum.org](http://Bidwellhousemuseum.org).

— MaryKate Jordan

## Nature Programs at Tolland State Forest June 29

Have you ever wanted to learn about amphibians and reptiles? Now's your chance to explore the lives and habitats of these cool critters. Liz Solet from the Springfield Science Museum will have live turtles, snakes, and frogs at the Tolland State Forest beach area on Friday, June 29, at 2 p.m.

How about seeing a real live eagle up close and personal? At 6 p.m. at the beach area Tom Richardi will bring the owls, hawks and eagle that are in his care from the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Center in Conway. He will share his extensive knowledge about these magnificent raptors.

Don't miss these special programs! For Directions to Tolland State Forest, call (413) 269-6002.

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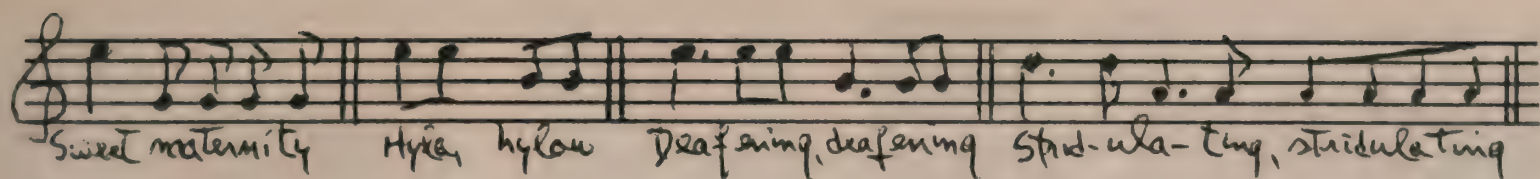
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## Night Sounds and Night Silences: May 1, 2001

The warm, still evening and the gorgeous sunset sky uttered their imperatives and I hurried down to the lake to get out in the canoe and watch the glow on the hills and the reflections in the water. Two geese on a little island of driftwood set up a clangorous alarm and swam off towards the darkening north shore, still warning the world of a Possible Predator.

As I crossed towards Spatterdock Cove, I heard a rippling like a brisk little brook running and saw two schools, each made up of dozens of small fish, turning the surface into a miniature maelstrom with their feeding. At the same time I became aware that the spring peepers, the hyla frogs, had suddenly raised their voices in full antiphonal chorus from every part of the Fargo Swamp. Hundreds of tiny brass-lined throats were tintinnabulating their tribute to spring, setting up rhythms and counter-rhythms with no regard for the consequences. Consequences for *me*, that is. For them the consequences would be age-old and ineluctable: more hylas!

At intervals, in all that clamor, the red winged blackbirds would contribute a silvery trill: "Brrrrreeeeeeee!" They were making their nests in the cattails where last year's neat brown pistillate flower spikes have evolved into loose blowsy fluff, ready to blow away, carrying seeds in all directions.

As I headed back towards the dock, the hyla sound grew almost overpowering. The persistent, relentless vociferation seemed as potent as Spring, itself, occupying every cranny of the universe. I put up the canoe and lay on the dock on my back to watch the stars and match the multitude of lights with the infinity of voices. The call and response seemed to be saying "Sweet: maternity, sweet: maternity!" The near voices were sharp and authoritative: the distant ones, a slightly

muted answer. At long intervals some other kind of frog would make a dry but resonant little groan and twice, in the two hours I was there, a third kind came out with a fluting trill held for six or seven seconds and dropping a little in pitch at the end. Each time, it was answered immediately by another trill, farther down the shore.

My eye caught a long silver trail in the water, gleaming in the dull remains of the sunset color. It was made by a beaver, come over from the big lodge near Burke's Canal. She was moving silently through the water with great speed; after she had gone by she circled back, then circled again and again. All this was without a sound, though I held my breath, expecting the sudden plunging dive. It didn't come, though. She circled once more and, deciding not to take chances, she headed for home to feed on the young alders there.

In the last of the light a dozen bats were dipping and soaring over the water matching their agility with that of their prey, the first of the black flies, come to show that it really is May. Again, it was silent activity: not a wingbeat was audible, though I knew a supersonic signal was going out constantly to inform the bats of their prey's whereabouts and the location of everything else about them.

What a contrast when a Stratoliner from Bradley Field came sweeping over from the east. With lights blazing and blinking it roared, hissed, and screamed across the sky, seeming at first like an obliterating desecration of all the "natural" sound I had been enjoying. The wail of its combined voices dropped in pitch as the plane hurtled into the distance. Then I realized that this was natural too. We can no more help building jet liners than the beavers can help building their lodges and the blackbirds their nests. That deafening sound of the very atmosphere being ripped apart is a symphony, a Berlioz fantasy of a hundred orchestras all playing at once, celebrating the

creature who learned to rip rocks apart 60,000 years ago to make cleavers and scrapers and arrowheads.


A distant plane appeared as a single spark of light, headed north, apparently on its way from Chicago to Quebec. For a few moments it was as silent as the beaver and the bats, then its symphony, too, could be heard, muted by distance and trailing along a few miles behind its creator.

Almost at the same time a small, single-motor, propeller-driven plane came over leisurely and low, very possibly headed for the Great Barrington airport. The sound was hardly louder than a flock of geese, headed homeward. Then the sky was empty of all but the larger stars, the night being hazy. The Big Dipper was directly overhead, upside down, as dry as these last few Berkshire spring days. The moon, now very bright, lit up the lake and the surrounding wooded hills. The peeper chorus reemerged, stronger than ever, and the trees, still leafless and therefore quieter than usual, stood stark and motionless in the pale light.

— David P. McAllester

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## Remembering Richard Stoiber

Richard E. Stoiber, Dartmouth College professor emeritus and world-renowned volcanologist, died Friday, February 9, 2001, at his home in Norwich, Vermont, just two weeks after celebrating his 90th birthday with friends and family. Stoibers have been Monterey summer residents on Bidwell Road for more than one hundred years.

He was born in 1911 in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in South Orange, New Jersey. He entered Dartmouth as a freshman in 1928, starting a commitment to the college and its students that lasted more than seventy years.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth in 1932, he did his graduate work in geology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, earning his Ph.D. in 1937. By then he had already returned to Dartmouth as an instructor and assistant professor until 1942, when he joined the U. S. Army Signal Corps.

Dr. Stoiber returned to Dartmouth in 1946 and became a full professor two years later. He was named Frederick Hall Professor of Mineralogy in 1971. In spite of an official retirement in 1976, he continued to teach part-time until 1989, when he devoted himself entirely to his research on volcanoes and the care of his wife, Eddie, to whom he was married for more than fifty years.

Dick was an inspiration to many of his students and colleagues, who now work all over the world. As author or coauthor—often with his students—of more than one hundred scholarly articles

and an enormously successful book on optical mineralogy, Dick's research took him to such places as Central America, New Guinea, Indonesia, Iceland, and Mount St. Helens in Washington.

A rare volcanic mineral was discovered and named Stoiberite in his honor. In recent years, he and two colleagues created "The Electronic Volcano," a complete and up-to-the-moment Internet portal to past and current research by scientists all over the world.

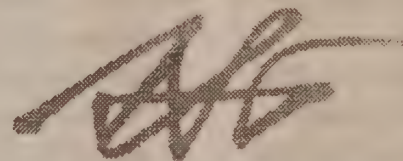
In 1997, his alma mater recognized him in a special issue of its alumni magazine as "one of the persons who makes Dartmouth Dartmouth." His professional papers, correspondence, photographs, and slides will be preserved in a special collection of the college's archives.

He is survived by his son, Philip, of Seattle; daughter Christine Fahlund, son-in-law Gregory Fahlund, and grandson Erik Fahlund, of Baltimore; and grandson Andrew Fahlund, of Takoma Park, Maryland.

A memorial service will be held in the Norwich Congregational Church in Norwich, Vermont, at 2 p.m. on June 17, and his ashes will be interred in Corashire Cemetery in Monterey on June 18, 2001.

Memories and recollections of Dick may be contributed to "The Richard E. Stoiber Archival Collection" at Dartmouth's Baker Library.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Stoiber Field Fund, in care of the Department of Earth Sciences at Dartmouth College. The fund supports the geological fieldwork of Dartmouth students.



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## Dining Room, not Bedroom

To the Editor:

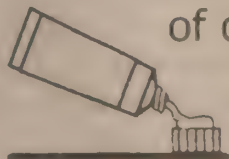
I certainly appreciate all the fine articles and illustrations in the *Monterey News*. There never was a dandier community paper. Just a little note on the photo that appeared on page 13 of May's issue with the caption "Pileated woodpecker nesting tree." It may very well be that the tree shown is a "nesting tree," but we can't tell this from the photo. What we see in the photo are three big fine holes quite near the ground. These have got to be lunching spots, probably excavations for tasty carpenter ants. Nest holes they are not — way too low on the tree. We wouldn't want raccoons grabbing precious eggs out, or nosy paparazzi popping flash bulbs at our innocent babies as they grow up. So we generally put our nest holes much farther up the tree, like ten to seventy feet, like it says in the article. Okay — thanks again for the otherwise great coverage.

— P. Woodpecker, a friend



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## Salt, Salt, Salt

To the Editor:

Winter is over at last. So is Monterey's annual town meeting. At the town meeting, considerable concern was expressed about the new regime to treat snow and ice on our roads, namely primarily using salt.

A person from Florida, had he/she arrived just in time to attend our town meeting would have to conclude from the Select Board's response to those concerns that the previous approach of using sand with some salt added, had been a near total failure. I believe that has not been the case. Nor has the Select Board been agonizing publicly about such a failure over the years.

Why then the change? We were told that the town officials who must deal with snow and ice went to a workshop sponsored by the state and were informed that salt is the way to go. So the expertise of the state was accepted and Monterey switched to salt. I have been given to understand that the experts at the workshop were actually representatives of companies that are in the business of selling materials and equipment. In effect, they were salespeople selling their wares.

Given the strong concerns about the extensive use of salt at the town meeting, what was the response of the Select Board?

No certain solution was offered. There was no indication they would consider returning to the traditional approach until the problems are worked out. They indicated only that they are aware of the problems and will try to fine tune the system with better machinery by regulating more closely the flow of salt from the trucks.

At the informational meeting before the town meeting we became aware that one domestic water source has become contaminated and can no longer be used. How many more must become contaminated before concern is sufficient to slow down the contamination.

At the town meeting we were told that the old way has its problems too. One of which is that the used sand beside the roads must be collected in the spring and must be disposed of as a toxic substance. That toxic substance is what we are now using in greatly increased quantities. The toxic salt is no longer by the edge of the road where it can be collected. It is on our lawns and in the drainage on our lands.

There already is in Monterey some small indications of damage to vegetation along our roads. To really see the future of using a salt regime, travel the Mass Pike from Lee to Westfield. The damage there brought about by the state's use of salt is horrendous. These are the experts we are following.

— Storrs Olds

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## MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.  
 in the Meeting House  
 Heidi Haverkamp, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:  
 Heidi Haverkamp 528-5850





## Michelle Grotz, M.D.

In commencement ceremonies held in the Garden of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center on May 16, Michelle Grotz received her Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree from Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons.

In addition, she was the recipient of one of the highest awards granted to the graduating class of physicians: The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Award, presented to that student exemplifying "excellence in science and compassion in patient care." She was further recognized for her election to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, medical schools' equivalent to Phi Beta Kappa.

A 1987 graduate of Mount Everett High School, she received her B.A. in American Studies from Mount Holyoke College in 1991, and her Post-Baccalaureate Premedical certificate from Columbia University in 1996. Prior to entering medical school, she served as an apprentice midwife at Maternidad La Luz in El Paso, Texas, and as the Women's Health Counselor at Metropolitan Hospital in New York City.

Michelle resides with her husband, Neville Rhone, in New York City, and is the daughter of two proud parents, Stefan and Stephanie Grotz.

Kudos to Dr. Mitch!

## Personal Notes

Birthday greetings to **Todd Bynack** on the 8th, **Kay Pratt** on the 13th, **Nicole Andrus** on the 14th, **Michael Bynack** and **John Higgins** on the 16th, **Sandy Gottlieb** on the 18th, **Chris Blair** and **Pam Gauthier** on the 19th, **Jane Thorn** on the 23rd, **Colm Higgins** on the 28th and **Grace Mendel** on the 30th.

Happy anniversary greetings to **Mari & Stephen Enoch** on June 12th, to **Dean & Fran Amidon** on the 18th, **Sandy & Rita Gottlieb** on the 21st and **Dan & Betsy Andrus** on the 26th.

Congratulations to **Mike and Kerry** and big sister **Hadley Mielke** on the birth of **Zachary William Mielke**, who arrived on May 17th.

Congratulations to **Kim Gero** and **Claire Mielke** for being inducted into the National Honor Society at Mt. Everett Regional High School during a ceremony held May 16. **Jim Thomas** gave the address to members, inductees, family and friends.

**David and Beryl McAllester** travelled to Haverford College near Philadelphia where David received an honorary

doctoral degree on May 20th. David was given this award in recognition of his "theoretical and practical commitment to peace," as shown by his life's work as a teacher, scholar, author, founder of the Society for Ethnomusicology, and his "path-breaking work on Navajo ceremonial music." He received a Haverford Citation, making him a Doctor of Humane Letters, and a handsome academic hood in red and white.

**Tarsi Dunlop** has been awarded a full-tuition scholarship for the ninth grade at Berkshire Country Day School in Lenox. Tarsi has been home-schooled through seventh grade and is currently completing eighth grade at Rudolph Steiner School in Great Barrington. Her Merit Scholarship project was a book she wrote, *A Dog's Life in Paradise*.

— Deborah Mielke



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## Calendar

**Every Thursday:** People's Pantry, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., St. Peter's Parish, 16 Russell St., Great Barrington. Free food for the needy.

**Sunday, June 3:** Learn to row with Berkshire Rowing and Sculling Society, Lake Garfield, 7:30 a.m. Information and registration (413) 528-6091 or (413) 496-9160.

**Wednesday, June 6:** Full Moon.

**Saturday, June 9:**

Art Show, Sandisfield Arts Center (Hammertown Rd. off Rt. 57), 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Twelve artists from Sandisfield will show their work including paintings, photography, and sculpture. Admission free. Information (413) 258-4904.

Anson Olds Band performance at the Sandisfield Arts Center (Hammertown Road off Route 57), 8 p.m. The trio blends old-time, fiddle, traditional, and original bluegrass music, with inspiring vocals, three-part harmonies, and energetic instrumentals. Tickets \$12.50 at the door.

**Tuesday, June 19:** Free blood pressure clinic, 9-10:30 a.m., Meetinghouse basement, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc. (Please note the change in location.)

**Thursday, June 21:**  
Summer Solstice

World Day of Prayers for Peace and Planetary Healing. Local ceremony off Mt. Hunger Road. Meet at Greene Park 7:00 a.m. Information 528-2516.

**Saturday, June 23:**

Lake Garfield Association meeting, Monterey Firehouse, 9 a.m.

Magic Show, Sandisfield Arts Center (Hammertown Road off Route 57), 11 a.m. Ellen Swan Mazzer will perform and teach magic tricks to children of all ages. Information (413) 258-4904.

Family fun day, Benedict Pond, Beartown State Forest, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Live music, free canoe, kayak use. See p. 10.

Square & contradancing, 8:30-11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Jeff Walker. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information 413-528-9385.

**Tuesday, June 26:** All Board Meeting for all Monterey Town Board members, 7 p.m., Town Hall.

**Friday, June 29:**

Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pick-up, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Meetinghouse basement.

Nature program, Tolland State Forest beach area, 2 p.m., 6 p.m. Find out about amphibians, reptiles, raptors. See p. 20.

## The Observer

April 26-May 25

High temp. (5/5) ..... 90°  
Low temp. (4/29) ..... 29°  
Avg. high temp. .... 70.6°  
Avg. low temp. .... 40.9°  
Avg. temp. .... 55.8°  
Total precipitation ..... 1.21"  
Precipitation occurred on 9 days.

**Saturday, June 30:**

Storyteller John Porcino, Monterey Meetinghouse, 10 a.m. See p. 10.

Animal Tracking Workshop, Savoy Mtn. State Forest, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. See p. 17.

**Saturday, July 7:** Country Garden Tour Sandisfield 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Educational demonstrations by three local nurseries and tour of four of the most beautiful private gardens in Sandisfield. Tickets \$15 at Sandisfield Arts Center on the day of the event. Information (413) 258-4904.

### Transfer Station Summer Hours

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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the

*News* by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us in Monterey at 413-528-4347.

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*Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 18; MaryKate Jordan, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, p. 16; David McAllester, p. 21; Glynis Oliver, pp. 9, 17, 23, 26.*

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## MONTEREY NEWS

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MONTEREY, MA 01245

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